Recommendations of Sukhatankar Committee

3286. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has appointed Sukhatankar Committee to go into details of issues pending for decision in Coastal Regulation Zone;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of that Committee;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to implement the recommendations of Sukhatankar Committee;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Ministry had constituted two Committees under the Chairmanship of Shri D. M. Sukhatankar, *viz.*, the first "to guide the study on the Status of Coastal Regulation Zone undertaken by Centre for Earth Science, Thiruvananthapuram and to draw up a draft framework of a National Coastal Zone Policy" in March, 2000 and the second "to examine issues relating to Coastal Zone Management in the Mumbai urban area" in May, 2000.

(b) to (e) With regard to the first committee above, the main recommendations included construction of Slum Rehabilitation Scheme Projects, reconstruction of dilapidated buildings etc. with higher Floor Space Index (FSI) then that existed as on 19.2.1991. The Ministry did not accept this report, since the recommendations were not in accordance with Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991. The draft report of the second committee above was placed before the Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry in June, 2004 under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, "To review the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991". The report of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Committee has since been accepted by the Ministry and necessary steps initiated for implementing the recommendations.

Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species

3287. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent it is a fact that at the recent Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) meeting at Hauge, China actively lobbied for tiger farms and possibility of trade in tiger parks;

(b) if so, whether Government is taking any step to counter China's stand on the issue in order to protect the tiger population in the country and also to stop use of bones in medicines in view of trade in tiger products banned since 1993; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Issues relating to trade and conservation of Asian Big Cats, *inter alia*, was discussed as an agenda item in the 14th meeting of Conference of the Parties to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at Hague (June, 2007). The report of the CITES Management Authority, People's Republic of China, while highlighting their ban on trade in tiger bones, also indicated the efforts taken to promote artificial breeding of tigers having a future potential to reopen utilization of tiger